



Integrated System News Bulletin

LEVEL OF CARE MILESTONES OF RECOVERY SCALE

Attention: DMH Directly-Operated and Contract Providers

Revised: 03/11/2010

STOP – Impact on You

In addition to the five codes (I, II, III, IV & V) of the Level of Care currently in the IS, eight new codes are being implemented on May 8, 2007 so that the Milestone of Recovery scale (MORS) levels can now be entered. The new codes are:

- 1 – Extreme Risk
- 2 – High Risk/Not Engaged
- 3 – High Risk/Engaged
- 4 – Poorly Coping/Not Engaged
- 5 – Poorly Coping/Engaged
- 6 – Coping/Rehabilitating
- 7 – Early Recovery
- 8 – Advanced Recovery



CAUTION – What You Need to Know

You can find the eight codes of MORS levels listed in the drop down menu of the Level of Care (LOC) on the “Identification” tab of the Client Information screen.

The MORS is an 8-point scale created by a workgroup of administrators, clinicians, and consumers convened by the California Association of Social Rehabilitation Agencies (CASRA). The scale measures degree of client recovery based on three underlying assumptions: Their level of risk, their level of engagement with mental health system and their level of skills and supports.

The consumer’s **level of risk** is comprised of three primary factors:

- 1. The consumer’s likelihood of causing physical harm to self or others
- 2. The consumer’s level of participation in risky or unsafe behaviors, and
- 3. The consumer’s level of co-occurring disorders.

The consumer’s **level of engagement** is the degree of “connection” between the consumer and the mental health service system. Note that level of engagement does not mean amount of service. A consumer who willingly makes appointments once per month and works on improving his life should be considered more engaged

and connected than a consumer who passively attends groups on a daily basis. Similarly, a consumer whose only services are large numbers of involuntary hospitalizations but refuses all voluntary treatment would be considered to have no or minimal engagement.

The consumer's **level of skills and supports** should be viewed as the combination of the consumer's abilities and support network(s) and the level to which the consumer needs staff support to meet his/her needs. It should include an assessment of their skills in independent living (e.g., grooming, hygiene, etc.), cognitive impairments, whether or not they are engaged in meaningful roles in their life (e.g., school, work), and whether they have a support network of family and friends. It should also include their ability to manage their physical and mental health, finances, and substance use, etc., and their ability to meet their needs for intimacy and sexual expression.

Use of the Scale:

The MORS is designed as an “administrative” tool – to DESCRIBE the process, not to DIRECT the process. The scale is not intended to provide specific guidance to clinicians in their day-to-day work with their clients. Staff must still consider the reasons why a particular client is considered to be “high risk” and provide services based on the consumer's unique needs.

The scale CAN be used to identify the level of service needed by consumers. Furthermore, as consumers move from one level to another it illustrates their movement to recovery.

GO – What You Need to Do

To find out the detailed information of each level of MORS, please click on the link provided below to download the MORS document.

<http://dmh.lacounty.gov/hipaa/downloads/MORSscale.pdf>

For more information and/or to request training on the MORS, please contact Kate MacKenney at Mental Health America of Los Angeles (562) 285-1330 extension 244 or kmackenney@mhala.org